

PROGRAM..... Chats by the Weather Man..... RELEASED... Mar. 16/27.....

(NOT FOR PUBLICATION)

ANNOUNCEMENT: Winds, rain, and the barometer---That's what the Weather Man is going to chat about this evening. His Chat is a regular Wednesday feature of the U. S. Department of Agriculture's radio service and is released each week by Station \_\_\_\_\_.

---ooOoo---

"When you want to do a little amateur weather forecasting, look to the wind, the clouds, and --- the barometer. Those three are worth more than 'most all other weather signs for the average man"....said the Weather Man.

"What about the ground hog, the moon, and my Aunt Het's rheumatism?" I asked. "They all claim they're right. And I know a woman who says her nose itches when it's going to rain."

"Interesting, if true", he replied with a wink. "I also know a man who plants his potatoes in the light of the moon and believes that walking under a ladder on Friday means 13 days bad luck."

"But every man doesn't have a barometer", said I. "The moon's common enough."

"You can learn to read the wind with a bit of practice", the meteorologist answered. "And there aren't many towns of any size at all in which you won't find one or two barometers. Then, too, -- the weather maps issued by the U. S. Weather Bureau list the barometric readings for each day in the year. It's a mighty small town where you won't find a weather map posted some place or another."

"Yeah", I scoffed. "But what do the readings mean? Here, take this weather map. Look at those wavy black lines. Map looks like a crazy quilt -- the kind Grandma used to make back in the days when they wore ear muffs. You tell me those black lines indicate the barometric pressure. All I see are the lines and the figures: 30.0 -- 29.9 -- 30.1 -- 29.8, and so on. Mean about as much to me as the Chinese war."

"Be patient -- sit down a minute -- and I'll tell you a bit about it", the Weather Man said as he shoved a chair forward. I sat down and waited.

"A barometer's an instrument that registers the pressure of the atmosphere", he began. "There are different kinds, of course, -- some of them are rather complicated instruments. I can't take time to describe barometers, but the usual wall barometer has a thin column of mercury within a glass tube. The pressure of the atmosphere is indicated by the barometer in figures which vary at sea level from around 30.20, and above, down to about 29.80, or below. Pressure at sea level in this country averages about 30 inches.

R-C. W. M. 3/16/27.

"All right. A falling barometer -- in other words, a low reading -- generally means foul weather. This is especially true when the wind's from the east. A high, or rising barometer, generally spells a clear-up or clear weather. And this is especially true when the wind's out of the west. 'Wind from the West suits everyone best', you know. A combination of wind and barometric readings is the best guide we have to future weather."

"How does a low barometer cause stormy weather?" I asked.

"It doesn't", the weather man said. "A low barometer is the result of certain conditions of the atmosphere that usually go with a storm, see? For instance, if your barometer reads 29.80, and if the wind's right, that's an almost sure sign that you'll get foul weather mighty quick -- to be followed within 24 hours by a clear-up and, in winter, by colder weather. If the tube reads 30.10, and a fair wind's blowing, it means fair weather with small changes of temperature, to continue for 1 or 2 days. In spring and summer -- in most parts -- a low barometer usually means rain and wind. In winter, snow or sleet. Of course it depends on the geography."

"What are these 'areas of low barometric pressure' that you chaps speak about?" I wanted to know.

"Areas of low barometric pressure are really whirlwinds of greater or less magnitude and intensity. That means, high winds blowing anti-clockwise inward into the funnel or circle. Areas of high pressure, on the other hand, are featured by westerly winds blowing spirally clockwise and outward. See?"

"I think I do", said I.

"You see", he continued, "the air tends to sweep inward to the areas of low pressure. And the wind directions produced by this tendency are largely responsible for all local weather signs. South winds bring warmth -- North winds cold -- East winds, in the middle latitudes, show the approach from the westward of a low pressure area, a storm -- and West winds indicate that the storm has passed to the eastward. It varies some in summer and winter, but not so very much.

"From the Mississippi and Missouri valleys to the Atlantic Coast -- and on the Pacific Coast -- rain generally comes with a falling barometer. In the Rocky Mountain and Plateau districts, and on the eastern Rocky Mountain slopes, the rain seldom begins until the barometer starts to rise after its drop. Weather men know the variations in this rule and take account of them. For instance, it varies some from summer to winter -- as we know."

"Well", said I doubtfully still, "if all you say is true, why can't we make out some rule which will show just which barometric readings and wind directions mean stormy and fair weather?"

"Pretty hard to make the weather follow what you call rules", the sky reader replied. "But actually there is something of a rule. Doesn't always work. Usually it's pretty near the truth, however. Taking the United States as a whole, we can make out a table of wind and barometric indications and

R-C. W. M. 3/16/27.

what they mean. In fact, the Weather Bureau has already made such a table. Won't have time to give the whole thing to you, but I can tell you parts of it. Listen closely and I'll mention one or two interesting situations:

"Wind direction, southwest to northwest; barometer 30.1 to 30.2 and steady; fair weather, with slight temperature changes, for 1 or 2 days. Wind direction, southwest to northwest; barometer 30.1 to 30.2 and rising rapidly; fair, to be followed within 2 days by rain. Wind direction, south to southeast; barometer, 30.1 to 30.2 and falling slowly; rain within 24 hours. Same, with the barometer falling rapidly, means rising wind and rain within 12 hours. Wind direction, southeast to northeast; barometer 30 or below, and falling slowly, rain will continue 1 to 2 days. Same, with barometer falling fast, spells rain with high winds, followed, within 36 hours, by a clear-up and, in winter, colder. Wind south to east; barometer, 29.8 and falling rapidly, means a severe storm coming, to be followed within 24 hours by a clear-up and in winter, by colder weather. Wind going to the west; barometer 29.8 or below and rising rapidly, clearing and colder.

"That's only part of the story. But I'll tell you the rest someday, if you want to hear it."

I assured the Weather Man I would and began to study the weather map with new interest.

Before I say good night, I'd recommend that you do the same.

---ooOoo---

# **National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

## **ERRATA NOTICE**

One or more conditions of the original document may affect the quality of the image, such as:

Discolored pages

Faded or light ink

Binding intrudes into the text

This has been a co-operative project between the NOAA Central Library and the Climate Database Modernization Program, National Climate Data Center (NCDC). To view the original document, please contact the NOAA Central Library in Silver Spring, MD at (301) 713-2607 x124 or [Library.Reference@noaa.gov](mailto:Library.Reference@noaa.gov)

HOV Services  
Imaging Contractor  
12200 Kiln Court  
Beltsville, MD 20704-1387  
July 23, 2010